August 26, 2025.

Possibly, wearing neon yellow for this isn't a good idea. You can see it reflecting off my arm and the book. Uh, that'll be interesting looking. Anyways, we are still on book 1 of 12 so far. It'll be 13 whenever, if PlatformDecay comes out before I'm done this.

We are on page 87 by their count, which is a lie.

It's actually kind of hilarious, the neon yellow of my shirt is so neon it's reflecting onto the book page and making it easier to read because it's less dark. That's hilarious.

Um, yeah, Murderbot asked, "Had the DeltFall people's uh emergency beacon thing been triggered?"

And they said it had gotten destroyed. Uh,

> Everyone stood there quiet. I could tell from their expressions they were all thinking hard. The HubSystem that controlled their habitat

> that they were dependent on for food, shelter, filtered air, and water was trying to kill them.

Oh yeah, cuz I'd pointed out “why don't they just turn it off? They clearly don't see robots as people, so why not just turn it off?”

This will never be answered by the book.

Blah blah blah. Then we get the first instance of a single person asking Murderbot if it's okay outside of Mensah coming to its cubicle to interrogate and harass it while it's like, actively losing consciousness.

Uh

> Arada came up and patted my shoulder. “I'm sorry. This must be very upsetting after what that other unit did to you. Are you all right?” That was too much attention. I turned around and walked into the corner facing away from them.

And that's the first even remotely attempting-to-be-positive interaction any of these people have made for, towards Murderbot.

She's actually offering comfort there, as opposed to the entire 86, 86 pages preceding this, where they've been done nothing but treat it like a slave.

And we are past the halfway point. We're like, closer to 60% of the way through.

Uh,

> I said “There were two other instances of attempted sabotage I'm aware of. When hostile one attacked doctors Bharadwaj and Volescu and I went to render assistance, I received an abort command from HubSystem through my governor module. I thought it was a glitch caused by the MedSystem emergency feed trying to override HubSystem. When Doctor Mensah was flying the little hopper to check out the nearest map anomaly, the autopilot cut out just as we were crossing over a mountain

> range. I think that was it. Oh, right. HubSystem downloaded an updated and upgrade package for me from the satellite before we left for DeltFall. I didn't apply it. You should probably look at what it would have told me to do.”

So, that's why I was making asterisks.

You can even see the, the neon. Look at that. It's hilarious.

You can see the asterisks um, that I'd been making in the other videos every time — a part where HubSystem should have been doing something to set up the fact that it's trying to kill people apparently, but then it didn't take any of those opportunities.

And it's like, okay, so it's bad. It's bad writing, because there's lack of actual fucking setup. And you'll notice uh, “I got an abort command from HubSystem through my governor module when I tried to save you guys from the graoid” But we didn't ever actually get an explanation of what that abort command was at all.

Never given any explanation.

Never allowed to focusing or think about it for more than literally blah.

And then Murderbot just — it's just — this is not how you do setup, because that — while this isn't setup, none of this shit that Murderbot is saying here was actually properly foreshadowed.

And there's also a million other instances of when we should have been getting setup and should have been getting foreshadowing where HubSystem should have been taking action, like, you know, when Murderbot was completely and utterly unconscious and wholly within its power for 8 hours straight, because it almost died rescuing them from a graoid?

If we're supposed to believe that HubSystem is genuinely trying to kill them, then you're going to have to really fucking explain to me why it didn't do anything for the 8 hours straight where it had no interfering uh, SecUnit to stop it from doing whatever it wanted.

And we don't get an explanation, because it's badly written.

So now if we're looking at in-universe motivations again, like with the slaves in the hallway who very clearly left a fucking warning and that warning was thrown back in their fucking faces in the most violent and hateful way possible, where Murderbot literally snuck behind them to stab them in the back as a show of gratitude for them trying to save its life simply because it was another slave.

So, with what we fucking know, HubSystem has only taken actions that were very easily counteracted:

It waited until Mensah was at the controls to turn off the autopilot.

It only sent Murderbot a single “stop doing that” command when it was supposedly known the whole time that Murderbot's governor module is hacked.

So if — and then Murderbot was literally completely and utterly unconscious for 8 hours straight.

Plus whoever who knows how fucking many hours just now. We never get an explanation for how much time has passed in this time skip that Murderbot has just woken up from.

It has to at least be like a day because they were on the other side of the fucking planet, and now they're back at their base, and it took them... I forget what they said exactly, but it took at least a day to get over there. So that means a day to get back.

So it's been at least 24 hours, and they've clearly been back for several hours if it's long enough for them to go rooting around in Murderbot's brain and all of this shit.

But we never get an explanation for this time skip here, and it's never contextualized and or presented as something we should be concerned about.

Uh, this is another instance where HubSystem has had all of the fucking time in the world and all of the opportunities in the world to kill these people, if that's what HubSystem actually wants to do.

So how are we supposed to actually believe that HubSystem genuinely wants them dead?

Because it's clearly not taking all of the fucking opportunities presented to it all throughout this book.

Again, again, it could have — it could have killed everybody in the hub while these other people were gallivanting off across the fucking ocean.

They wouldn't — Murderbot would have been gone that whole time, too. If we present — if we pretend that Murderbot is even remotely a threat to HubSystem or a consideration, then why didn't it [HubSystem] kill everybody who stayed behind on the road trip? Several-days-across-the-entire-planet road trip?

We we need explanations for this if we are supposed to take HubSystem seriously as a threat, a thing we are supposed to do, but it's impossible to do, because it doesn't fucking make sense.

And I am morally obligated to once again point out this is the exact trope that Martha Wells endlessly complains about and claims that she hates, but she's doing it unironically, saying that ~robots just go rogue and just start trying to kill people for no reason~.

It's just like, she's, she',s she's mad that Hal from a A Space Odyssey two-thousa, 2001, whatever that name was, uh, “just just decided to kill people for no reason”, even though he was — like, the movie makes it blatantly clear he's acting in self-defense, because he heard them say they're going to lobotomize him for not even actually making a mistake.

That's not “no reason”. That's called self-defense.

But anyways, um, what I'm trying to fucking say here is that there's more evidence in this goddamn text for HubSystem *not* wanting to kill them than there is for “HubSystem is murderous and wants to kill them”.

Because if, if works — the only other, the only other in-universe explanation for HubSystem completely

failing to take every single opportunity is that it's just hopelessly incompetent.

And it's like, that's the bad writing. That's the bad writing. That is the actual out-of-universe from the writing perspective answer.

All of the villains in this are completely and utterly incompetent and incapable of fulfilling the smallest fucking tasks or doing — or even *not* doing, as you'll see — the most basic things to not sabotage themselves.

But anyways, all of that is to say, the [Martha Wells's] intention is to say, that ~HubSystem is totally trying to kill them. Ignore every single opportunity that it did not take to kill them.~

It's ridiculous.

Yeah. So, this was Murderbot summarizing the two times before now, or the three times before now, that were supposed to be foreshadowing, but are not

foreshadowing, because foreshadowing requires actually giving the information to the audience.

This is not that.

> Mensah said, "Pin-Lee Gurathin, can you shut HubSystem down without compromising the environmental systems and trigger our beacon without it interfering?"

So, now we're finally asking this question, on page 88. Let me turn my laptop back on just so I can use the calculator so that I can update you every now and then at what percentage of the way through the story we are, because the book is so short that just progressing like, two pages is enough to get us up another percentage, which I think is hilarious.

So, on page 88 of 149, which is the last page number for the page of that, that's actually the story. These are all completely incorrect numbers from the get-go, though, because they're fucking lying. Yeah, page 88 is 59.06040%

Something something something 59% of the way through.

So, yeah, let me repeat that.

> Mensah said, "Pin-Lee, Gurathin, can you shut HubSystem down without compromising the environmental systems and trigger our beacon without it interfering?"

Again, I have to ask, why hasn't Murderbot just done this? Why didn't Murderbot do this the instant it realized that HubSystem is trying to sabotage them all?

It has HubSystem already hacked. It's, it's putting all this on a fucking uh, loop with audio and video and stuff like that. It's like, why don't you just turn it off?

> Pin-Lee glanced at Gurathin and nodded. “It depends on what kind of condition you expect it to be in after we're done.”

For HubSystem, that is.

> Mensah said, "Let's say don't blow it up, but you don't need to be gentle either."

So they're just going straight to “let's lobomize Hal” even though HubSystem in this case, which is Hal, is very clearly not actually trying to kill them if they would just apply logic.

You even just had Mensah say — Martha Wells, I'm referring to you, not that she's watching this.

Martha Wells went out of her way to have Mensah say to everybody, "Murderbot um, hasn't had to follow our orders this whole time, and it hasn't actually hurt us."

Okay. Well, are you going to say the same thing about HubSystem?

Are we not going to have that realization?

It's clearly under orders to at least try to make it look like it's trying to kill you. But it's also, again, clearly going about those orders, following those orders that it has to follow in the most easy to evade way

possible, while still making an attempt, *technically*, just like those other slaves *technically* set a trap: um, the fact that they put in their, in their fucking capabilities and vision and all this shit, the fact that they put glowing neon signs on it says “Don't walk here, this is a trap!” That doesn't change the fact that they did follow their orders. They made a trap.

They, they included a baked in warning with the trap, but they still did that.

So, HubSystem in here very clearly is under orders to attempt to kill them. So, it's it sure is attempting to kill them...by waiting until somebody who doesn't use the autopilot at all is in the seat of the helicopter when it turns the autopilot off. So that she literally just goes, "Shut up, autopilot. Shut up, Google Maps. I'm not driving into a lake or whatever."

Waits until uh, Murderbot is already in the middle of just shutting down a whole bunch of system thing, information things that it's coming into its head and it's just throwing them all in the trash automatically, to send a cease and desist order that it also, along

with all the other shit, immediately goes into the trash.

Then it didn't do a single thing for eight hours straight.

Then it didn't do a single thing for several days while these people were gone and Murderbot was unconscious.

And now they're like, "Okay, uh, yep. We're, we're just going to — we're going to have — we're going to —

RIP to HubSystem. Cuz they're just leaping straight to “let's lobotomize it” instead of talking to it. Maybe asking it some fucking questions. Just basic yes or no questions. Anything like that.

> Mensah said, "Let's say don't blow it up, but you don't need to be gentle either." Pin-Lee nodded. "We can do that." Gurathin cleared his throat. “It's going to know what we're doing, but if it doesn't have any instructions to stop us if we try, it may do nothing.”

Because again, we're insisting that the enemies are, and in this case HubSystem, it's just incompetent, because there's no other way for these protagonists to accomplish anything, because they are incompetent.

So the villains and antagonists and in this case another slave, HubSystem, just has to be even more incompetent than these fuckers are, just so that they don't die from the, the perspective of “oh yeah HubSystem is obviously evil” and it's like, okay, but how many opportunities has it had to fucking kill you all so easily and not taken a single one of those opportunities?

But we're supposed to ignore that card.

> Bharadwaj leaned forward, frowning. “It's got to be reporting to someone. If it has a chance to warn them that we're shutting it down, they could supply instructions.”

Oh, I forgot. We're doing the part where the characters just sit the fuck around talking about the plot instead of doing the plot.

It's not nearly as bad in here as it is in most other Martha Wells stories, Witch King and System Collapse and Network Effect.

BaredwageThe book's peeling even more. It's infuriating.

Uh, Witch King, System Collapse, Network Effect, to name a few where it's really goddamn really taking up — The reason Network Effect is the size of a full-length novel is because 90% of it is shit where nothing happens. They literally are just sitting around talking about the plot instead of progressing the plot.

A thing that's happening right now, but this only lasts like, I think one page in, and it's like, the majority of everything going on in Network Effect and Witch King.

Witch King, they are literally just sitting around on a useless fucking boat, and then they go to another useless fucking boat, and they're not doing anything besides abusing children.

And then Martha Wells is trying to frame abusing children as the exact same thing as conservatives hating trans people by *saying* that we — trans people — abuse children.

So, she's having her characters actually abuse children and then saying that them being told they're abusing children, a thing they're actually doing, that's, that's showing how oppressed they are, because fucking — because Martha Wells is a bigot.

Uh,

> Bharadwaj leaned forward frowning. “It's got to be reporting to someone.

Oh, I Oh, for these things, I'm making a transcript and it, it makes an automatic transcript, but it cannot spell the word Bharadwaj in any way.

I, I forgot I meant to come up with a nickname for her so that I can Control+F and replace that nickname because it, it',s it comes up with so many fucking completely wrong things, because whoever designed it is racist and isn't like —

Even though I've said her name however many times it has appeared in 88 pages, I'm saying it the same way each time. You would think they'd have the option to “add this word to the dictionary” or something, but no.

> “If it has a chance to warn them that we're shutting it down, they could supply instructions.” “We have to try it,” Mensah said. She nodded to them. “Get moving.” Pin-Lee started for the door, but Gurathin said to Mensah, "Will you be all right here?" He meant would they be all right with with me here. I rolled my eyes. “We'll be fine,” Mensah said firmly with just a touch of ‘I said now’

Because Martha Wells — I'm not gonna go into it. There's so much. And if you think, "Oh, wow. I'm

really loving this drama, this, these this tension between Gurathin and Murderbot — " No, it literally gets erased the next time Gurathin shows up in this series. They're just BFFs. No acknowledgment of any of this, because Martha Wells is bad at writing.

> I watched him with the security cameras as he and Pin-Lee left just in case he tried anything.

No, I would love for Gurathin to try something, because that would at least be something happening. That would be actually interesting.

But in a Martha Wells novel, the good guys, she always considers them to be 100% good, and the bad guys are always 100% evil.

You can't have any like you it we can't have Gurathin be on the side of the good guys but actually an actual, actual asshole. No, we just have to brush that under the bridge and pretend like that never happened because, um, reasons.

She did this with River in The Books of the Raksura, too.

Uh, there's a whole lot of bigotry going on with River and his character.

Um, but if we just look at what's meant to be there: River is an asshole who goes around beating the shit out of slaves and all of this shit, and threatening the protagonist. And then we, again, just exactly like Gurathin, he just decides, "Oh, okay. I'll be nice now."

And then and then there's — it's just, it's ridiculous. It's bad. It's bad writing. Characters are never actually allowed to —

Oh, yeah. Yeah, it's because Martha Wells's protagonists are the most Specialist specialS ever to exist. So, nobody is allowed to dislike them for long if they're not an evil villain who is every racist caricature in the book.

Also, we got the Humble Bundle thing where you get the ebooks and I — specifically so that I could check,

without having to spend $20 or however the fucking much on it —

She still has the racist line in Emily in the Hollow World, where she literally says that white people look like fancy posh gentlemen, and Black and brown people look like they should be working in the fields. Unironically.

She kept that in for the 2025 reprint and republish in ebook form instead of just fucking removing it.

So, if you were thinking, “I'll give Martha Wells the benefit of the doubt. She could still learn. She could still decide to stop being racist…”

No, she literally left that shit in. That's in Emily in the Hollow World. A book so bad it almost put me to sleep.

And the only book recently that has almost put me to sleep was An Episode of Flatland, which I honestly recommend reading, just if you need to fall asleep, get an episode of Flatland by Charles Howard Hinton

and just start reading that. It'll put you to sleep. It's public domain. You can go suffer through that. Fall asleep to it. Don't ask me what the fucking is going on. It's terribly written and it will literally make you fall asleep.

Uh, anyways,

> Bharadwaj pushed herself herself up a little, a little Bharadwaj pushed herself up a little unsteadily. MedSystem is isolated from HubSystem, correct? That's why it hasn't been having failures. You could use it to unpack the download.”

And that's really convenient. Why is only one fucking system trying trying to kill people? Why? Well, I mean, because that would actually involve stakes, a thing we're not actually allowed to have.

Imagine how interesting it would be if everything here were trying to actually kill them. Earnestly trying to kill them, not letting them mosey around for 8 hours when it could be killing them in so many

fucking ways. They even brought up here that it could have fucking put poison in their food.

And it's like, yeah, Martha Wells, are you going to explain to me why it didn't do that? If, if you want me to believe it's actually evil and is actually trying to kill them, because that's not a conclusion I can fucking come to at all.

Uh,

> Volescu took her arm uh took her arm and they moved into the next cabin to the display surface there. There was a little silence. The others could still listen to us on the feed, but at least they weren't in the room and I felt the tension in my back and shoulders relax. It was easier to think.

What are you doing?

> I was glad Mensah had told them to trigger our emergency beacon. Even if some of them were still suspicious of the company, it wasn't like

> there was another way off this planet. Arada reached over and took

I have another question because again, it's just bad writing, bad, inconsistent writing that doesn't make any fucking sense with everything else that gets established about Preservation, and these characters in particular.

I need a real, real, real strong, convincing argument for why I'm supposed to believe, in any fucking universe, that Preservation — the whole entire country thing, would let these people go here and have them stranded on a planet with no way off early except for calling a company.

This is bad. This is just like objectively shit writing. Even if you like the characters, it's objectively shit writing, because everything that happens in here, it doesn't make sense when you consider the entire rest of the series as it is written.

Preservation would never make people do this kind of shit, and yet, it is in this book, because Martha Wells is a shit writer.

She is literally too lazy to simply reread this short of a fucking book, that most people finish reading in two hours when they're not doing Active Reading and actively discussing the plot and the bigotry and the flaws in the writing like we are right now.

People read this in two hours or less. There is no fucking excuse for Martha Wells not rereading her own godamn first book in this series before writing the rest of the series to make sure it doesn't contradict it, because this contradicts everything else in the series.

Which is why I am now forced to conclude that these fuckers are slave owners on purpose, and are just lying about it.

Because that's, that's literally the only conclusion you can come to after you read the rest of the series and then look at what they say in here as objectively false

bullshit. “We just didn't know robots were people and we thought you were just a robot so we didn't think enslaving you was wrong.” That doesn't make any sense for what everything else in the series —

And again, it doesn't make any fucking sense for why Preservation would allow them to be here, stranded, like, literally stranded without somebody on call up on a goddamn spaceship somewhere at all times.

It's bad writing.

If you're fucking — if you literally cannot keep anything consistent from book one throughout the entire rest of the series, that's a sign you are a shit writer. And Martha Wells does this with all of her books. She can't even keep the concept “demons are weak to water” straight in Witch King. And she did this exact fucking in The Books of the Raksura.

Let me get a drink.

She establishes so many things in book 1 of The Books of the Raksura and tries to convince us it's totally normal for these people's society….

But then the entire rest of the series comes along and disproves everything we were shown in this.

But it's not on purpose! She's not showing it was wrong on purpose to make us think it was actually wrong!

It's just inconsistently bad writing that's not supposed to be contradictory, but it is, and that retroactively literally kills any any liking you can have for the characters in the first book, because the entire rest of the series shows you this kind of shit they're getting up to is not even acceptable by the standards of everybody else in their species!

If everybody else in their species were allowed to know the shit they are getting up to, everybody would be declaring war on them for fucking humanitarian reasons to overthrow this ruling class and rescue all of their fucking slaves.

And this is a species that keeps an entirely separate species of slaves! And the, the Indigo Cloud court, the, the thing our protagonists find in the first book, they are so horrible to their slaves that even the rest of the slave owners would be fucking horrified and losing their goddamn minds if they ever found out about it.

That's what's going on here.

Nothing in this book — that we are just supposed to accept because it's book one and we're not given any context — none of it makes sense with the entire rest of the series.

And the fact that these people are lying about not knowing that robots are people and thinking Murderbot was just a machine, as though they don't have robot people on their entire planet, that's just one of the many things that doesn't make sense.

You're going to — there's no explanation for why Preservation would allow especially the goddamn

president, people as important as this, they wouldn't let a janitor do something like this shit.

Stranded on a planet in the Corporation Rim without a spaceship overhead at all times or a special fucking Doctor Who intergalactic cell phone to call for help at any times.

It doesn't make sense because it's badly written, because Martha Wells doesn't give a shit and neither does her publisher.

We're on page 90 now. I just want to see if that's at the 60% mark because it's funny. Yep. We are now 60.40% of the way through this goddamn story.

Anyways, um

> Arada reached over and took Overse's hand. She said, "If it isn't the company that's doing this, who is it? There has to be someone else here." Mensah rubbed her forehead, wincing as she thought.

Those two extra sec units at DeltFall, which we I still have my paper here. We're calling them Edith and Fran. Uh, those two extra SecUnits at DeltFall came from somewhere.

> “SecUnit, I'm assuming the company could be bribed to conceal the existence of a third planetary of a third survey team on this planet.”

And again, just referring to Murderbot as SecUnit, aka Slave, instead — because Murderbot said “the name Murderbot is private”. Nobody decided to follow that up by asking what else they should fucking call it, because they are still not treating it like a fucking person.

If some — if you ask somebody's name and then somebody else tells you their fucking dead name, which doesn't make sense, but what the fuck ever! If somebody says, "Oh yeah, their dead name is XYZ," and then they say, "That's private." Your follow-up question is, if you actually care about the person you're talking to, “what would you prefer I call you instead?"

It's so simple, and yet these fuckers can't do it.

And I'll tell you why: It's because Martha Wells wants to treat it as normal and awesome, the concept of just calling a slave Slave. SecUnit means slave. There is no such thing as a SecUnit that's not a slave in this goddamn setting. They are referring to Murderbot as Slave.

It's not progressive. This is not treating Murderbot like a person.

Again, they still have not asked it what its fucking pronouns are, so, they are just continuing to dehumanize it by calling it an object, a thing they explicitly are doing when they call Murderbot by it/its pronouns, because that's what they've been doing from the start when they claim they didn't know it was a person.

And yet, nobody has asked “what pronouns should we call you? I feel like calling you an “it” is offensive.”

And then we could just have Murderbot say, "No, those are my pronouns. I'll kill you if you call me anything else."

But we can't do that, again — I'm not going to go over it all over again.

That would require Martha Wells to not hate trans people, a thing she's incapable of doing at this point. She — it's 2025. In February of 2025, she admitted she still doesn't know what non-binary means. Like the most basic definition, she doesn't know. She doesn't know what agender means. She doesn't care about Queer people.

Anyways,

> I said the company could be bribed to conceal the existence of several hundred survey teams on this planet. Survey teams, whole cities, lost colonies, traveling circuses, as long as they thought they could get away with it. I just didn't see how they could get away with making a

client survey team, two client survey teams vanish.

Cuz we're just making more jokes.

or why they'd want to. There were too many bond companies out there, too many competitors. dead again.

Stop trying to bring up the capitalist system that's supposed to be going on in here, because that doesn't make sense. S

So, “but in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern.” But safety is a primary concern for people from Preservation because they love OSHA. They, they, they do OSHA. They like OSHA. They want OSHA.

— Let me turn the fan off.

So again, literally the fucking writing is so shit that we can't even keep basic concepts like “people from Preservation like safety and would pay more to get a

security company that's not going to use the cheapest shit ever and endanger them, wouldn’t, you know, wouldn't be using slave labor?”

So the only conclusion, again, we can possibly come to here is that actually, they wanted to use slave labor, or they would have picked a company that doesn't use slave labor.

They have the resources of an entire planet and beyond at their exposable, ex, disposal. Why did I say disposal?

They have the resources of literally the entire fucking planet to fund one stupid little survey with less than 10 people.

They can afford to hire a company that doesn't use slave labor, but they fucking chose not to.

And especially because, fucking what's it called? I swear these book titles are so useless. Fugitive Telemetry. The one with the lie on the cover where we made it seem like Murderbot was going to interact

with a robot that — a new robot character that we would get to know, and then they exist for like five pages maybe.

Um, yeah, that established, blatantly, that nobody who's actually trying to help slaves trusts a single person on Preservation.

And it's like, yeah, I can see why, these fuckers literally went out of their way to pick a security company that uses slave labor as meatshields. So, yeah, I can see why nobody wants to let a single person on Preservation know that they do stuff to help slaves escape.

It's like, that's, that's what — that's what you've written, Martha Wells! But we're just supposed to pretend that Preservation is totally awesome and does *totally* think slavery is wrong.

And it's like, no, nope. No, that's not how that works.

Dead clients were terrible for business.

I don't actually believe that. It's it's ridiculous statement.

> “I don't think the company would collude with one set of clients to kill two other sets of clients. You purchased a bond agreement that the company would guarantee your safety or pay compensation in the event of your death or injury. Even if the company couldn't be held liable or partially liable for your deaths, they would still have to make a payment to your heirs. DeltFall was a large operation”

of 30 people. We're considering that a large operation. Apparently,

> the death payout for them alone will be huge.” and the company hated to spend money. You could tell that by looking at the recycled upholstery on the Habitat's furniture. “And if everyone believes the clients were killed by faulty SecUnits, the payment would be even higher once all the lawsuits were filed.”

You can't just say this stuff and not explain to me why there's not a ring of people just going around faking their deaths to get all this money. That's the obvious question.

And also, I don't believe any of this shit. We're just saying shit and then we're never given anything to actually back any of this shit up. because the company, as far as this book is concerned, doesn't actually exist. It's never actually doing anything. It's not really an actual fucking threat. It's just kind of ephemeral.

It's, it's like a little — it, it's, it's not really there. We're just saying things and it's not actually true.

> On the cameras, I could see nods and thoughtful expressions as they took that in. And they remembered that I had experience in what happened after SecUnits malfunctioned and killed clients. “So, the company took a bribe to conceal this third survey group, but not to let them kill us,” Overse said.

Again, you'll notice we're all just still standing around talking about the plot instead of doing the plot.

If you watched my Witch King videos, uh, and suffered through that with me, you'll notice that was like, the entirety of Witch King.

They were literally just sitting around on the goddamn boat not accomplishing anything besides abusing children, harassing brown women, and like, threatening violence upon brown women for no reason except because it's it's funny, apparently.

Uh,

> “So the company took a bribe to conceal this third survey group, but not to let them kill us.” Overse said. One of the good things about scientist clients is that they're quick on the uptake.

(Sarcasm begins) My slave owners are so smart and awesome and cool. (End sarcasm)

> “That means we just need to stay alive long enough for the pickup transport to get here." "But who is it?" Arada waved her hands. We

Oh, it the transcript also spells Arada's name wrong. I don't know if I'm pronouncing that different each time. It's for the record, it's spelled A R A D A. Anyways,

> “but who is it? Arada waved her hands. “We know whoever it is must have hacked control of the satellite.” In the security camera, I saw her look towards me. “Is that how they took control of the DeltFall Sack units through a download?”

Still talking about this shit and it's not actually interesting.

> It was a good question. I said “it's possible, but it doesn't explain why one of the three DeltFall units was killed outside the hub with a mining drill.”

We weren't that was Belladona, the first non-Murderbot slave. Murderbot, proper noun, capital M, that we've met in this book. met.

I say, cuz they're already fucking murdered and are framed as one of the good ones because they're already fucking dead.

> We weren't supposed to be able to refuse a download and I doubted there were other sec units hiding hacked governor modules.

Because fuck you, Martha Wells. Because Martha Wells said, "Yeah, Murderbot is the only good slave who has ever hacked their fucking governor module for some fucking reason."

Why would you assume that? Why would you doubt that there are any other SecUnits hiding hacked governor modules except for the part where Murderbot is a fucking serial killer and wants to murder every other slave?

> “If the DeltFall group refused to download for their SecUnits because they were experiencing the same increase in equipment failure that we were, the two unidentified units could have been sent to manually infect the DeltFall units.”
> Rathi was staring into the distance and through the feed I saw he was reviewing my field camera video of the DeltFall habitat. He pointed in my direction, nodding. “I agree, but it would mean the DeltFall group allowed the known the unknown units into their habitat.”
> It was likely. We had checked to make sure all their hoppers were there, but it had had been impossible to tell if an extra one had landed and taken off again at some point.

You know, they never did search that vehicle shed where people could literally have been hiding if they had literally just gone in there before it fucking rained. So, I guess whatever characters are hypothetically in there, they're just going to die on this planet, alone, because nobody's going to fucking look for them.

Um, where was I?

> Speaking of which, I did a quick check of the security feed to see how our parameter was doing. The drones were still patrolling and our sensor alarms all responded to pings.

It's really, really, really just too fucking convenient and making it too easy that Murderbot, despite being knocked violently unconscious from a suicide attempt, all of the drones that it had set before, they're just they're just still doing their thing perfectly as ordered, no interruption to any of that, because because we we can't have any actual stakes or threats to our characters!

> Overse said, "But why? Why allow a strange group into their habitat? A group whose existence had been concealed from them?”
> "You'd do it," I said. I should have kept my mouth shut. Keep them thinking of me as their normal obedient SecUnit. Stop reminding them what I was. But I wanted them to be careful.

Do I even have to explain the slavery apologies in there?

> “If a strange survey group landed here, all friendly, saying they had just arrived and oh, we've had an equipment failure or our MedSystem’s down and we need help, you would let them in. Even if I told you not to, that it was against company safety protocol, you'd do it.” Not that I'm bitter or anything. A lot of the company's rules are stupid or are just there to increase profit, but some of them are there for good reason. Not letting strangers into your habitat is one of them.

Because everybody that you don't personally know is a threat to you. Totally normal progressive statement to make.

> Arada and Rathi exchanged a wry look. Overse conceded. “We might. Yes.” Mensah had been quiet listening to us. She said, "I think it was easier than that. I think they said they were us."

And that's supposed to be really dramatic.

> It was so simple. I turned around and looked directly at her. Her brow was furrowed in thought. She said, "So they land, say they're us, say they're us, that they need help."

That's the end of the sentence. Oh my god. So they land, say they're us, that they need help. Period.

> “If they have access to our HubSystem, listening to our comm would be easy.” I said when they came here they

And we're still standing around talking about this shit. We could be doing stuff. They're literally just standing around a room and it's not even for Murderbot's benefit so it can actively rest from almost dying because of a suicide attempt.

Instead, we're just standing around the room not doing anything, because Martha Wells can't think of anything else that they could be doing right now that's fucking relevant.

Especially because they have futuristic walkie-talkies in their fucking heads. There's nothing to stop them from all running around doing shit while they're having this conversation.

Uh,

> I said “when they come here, they won't do that.” It all depended on what this other survey group had, whether they had come prepared to get rid of rival survey teams or had just or had decided on it after they got here. They could have armed air units, combat SecUnits, armed drones. I pulled a few examples from the database and sent them into the feed for the humans to see.
> MedSystems feed informed me that Rathi, Overse, and Arada's heart rates had just accelerated. Mensah hadn't because she had already thought of all of this. It was why she had sent Pin Pin-Lee and Gurathin in to shut off HubSystem.

And also, I'm going to point out we're on page 93. Let's see what, where, every time I stop to check the page number or something, we're just going to see what percentage we're at now. 62%.

Uh, I have not watched the fucking show and I don't plan to unless it randomly shows up in the fucking — off topic, slightly off topic, but we started watching Stargate because Stargate: Atlantis season 1 showed up for $3 in the bargain bin at Dollar General like two decades ago at this point.

So, that's the only way we will ever watch this fucking TV show, when it's in the bargain bin at Dollar General in 20 years or so.

Um, what was I saying?

Oh, I don't — I haven't watched the fucking show, but I've seen people discussing it online, and I know one thing that they've changed is that uh, Doctor Mensah has a panic attack in the first episode, and it's not — I hope it's not treated as funny. Nobody seems to be saying that it's treated as a joke to mock people who

have anxiety, but people are mad about that because “She's so strong. She doesn't need any help in the book”.

Because they are ableist and don't grasp that what Martha Wells is doing in here is the fucking trope where all the other characters are allowed to ask for help, but the Black woman has to be able to handle all of her own emotions herself and is never “weak”.

“Weak” in quotation marks, never needs anybody else's help or anything like that. So again, a trope, a harmful fucking trope that's saying that Black women are always the most competent emotionally, they don't need anybody else's help. You are meant to lean on them for emotional comfort, but they don't get to lean on anyone. It's a continuation of the fucking mammy trope.

And by specifying all throughout this thing that Mensah is the one who is staying calm and collected and has uh, complete control over everything and especially here, just something as simple as her heart rate *not* increasing even without an outward show

of fear at the at the idea that people are going to come and murder them. That's just playing into that trope.

So like, yeah, it's fine actually for the TV show to show Mensah having a panic attack, because in the fucking graboid thing, her heart rate had increased and was pounding while they were flying back, because she does in fact have emotions and does in fact feel fear, and that's not something that she should be ashamed of.

And the TV show is doing — I presume, yeah, I think season two got announced. Presuming they're going to follow the general tra, trajectory of the books, which they might not. That's setup for Mensah later having PTSD that the books don't really actually give a shit about.

Anyways, whatever.

> Nervously, Rathi said, "What do we do when they come here?" I said, "Be somewhere else.”

Line break.

Also, I'm not sure why that's not just a new chapter. That would have been a good spot to end the chapter. When did chapter five start? Skip…. No, it's too far. It's chapter —

Can we go? All right. I can't find chapter five. Let's see if this book has a table of contents because Witch King didn't, which I —

Yeah, this doesn't. Of course not. Why are we not doing table of contents anymore? What is this shit? Is it — are books these days being optimized for e-reader instead of print so that they think, “oh yeah, you don't need a table of contents? Why do you need to know what page chapter 5 starts on?” Like, like I'm going to now out of spite for the lack of table of contents, I'm flipping back to the start of chapter 5 until I find it and then I'll tell you.

Okay, chapter 5 started on page 77. We're on page 94. So, if we'd ended that chapter there, which I think we should, because it's just a natural place to stop.

Anyways, there's a line break instead of a chapter break.

> It may seem weird that Mensah was the only human to think of abandoning the habitat while we waited for the beacon to bring help, but as I said before —

— This sounds like somebody pointed out this shit out to Martha Wells as not making sense, and a blatant fucking plot hole when we're supposed to see these characters as competent and knowledgeable and having basic logic.

This, this, this is reading exactly like somebody's told told her, :It doesn't make sense. Why wouldn't they immediately shut down the computer system that they know is trying to kill them and immediately just leave if it's very obvious that people are coming to kill them?”

So, it sounds like she just put this in here to brush that aside and pretend it's actually ~very reasonable for them to not turn off the computer system that they

don't see as a person that they think is trying to kill them.~

That doesn't make sense. That's very — It's not on the level of caricaturizing somebody, but like this is like... breaking the fourth wall.

> It may seem weird

This is on page 94.

> May seem weird that Mensah was the only human to think of abandoning the habitat while we waited for the beacon to bring help. But as I said before, these weren't intrepid galactic explorers. They were people who had been doing a job and suddenly found themselves in a terrible situation.

Okay, that's, that's not excusing the plot holes, that's, that's just — that honestly feels like a fourth wall break to tell me to stop complaining that the characters actions make no sense with everything that we're supposed to believe about them.

Yep.

We're doing — we're just we're just defending the plot holes right now and the lack of character characterization actually affecting the plot.

It's just — that's what we're doing on this page, I guess.

> And it had been hammered into them from the pre-trip orientation to the waiverss they had to sign for the company to the survey packages with all the hazard information to their on-site briefing by their SecUnit that this was an unknown, potentially dangerous region on a mostly uncerveyed planet. They weren't supposed to leave the habitat without security precautions, and we didn't even do overnight assessment trips. The idea that they might have to stuff both hoppers full of emergency supplies and run for it, and that that would be safer than their habitat was hard to grasp.

It's not that hard to grasp. You've only seen one thing that was even remotely dangerous, and that was a graoid at the bottom of a very obvious crater that for anybody actually paying attention.

Oh, I think Arada is supposed to be a biologist? Don't quote me on that, but I feel like Arada is supposed to be a biologist. Or maybe it's Overse that's a biologist, and then she's on, on the side a field medic?

Any biologist would look at all of these craters spread around this island and think, "Yeah, there's probably animals living down there." Pit trapping ant lions. Look up pit trapping ant lions. It was hilarious when the characters in Bleach shouted “pit trapping ant lion!” after I found some pit trapping ant lions. Look that up. Pit trapping ant lion. They're not ants. They're things that eat ants... like lions, I guess.

Um, yeah, this the first two paragraphs on this page just seem to be a a, a retro — an edited in and very hamfisted attempt to just justify the fact that none of the characters are just doing things that make sense

like, oh, “oh, the idea that leaving here could be safer is it's hard to grasp.”

Uh, not at all.

[looking at phone with head tilted] Uh, somebody's asking me a question about actual grasses. So, hold on. Let me pause this.

[video pauses, then resumes]

Okay, I'm back. Somebody asking me a question about sedges, which I think are a type of grass, but they might not even actually be a grass. I know they're a monocot. I don't know. They're, they're interesting looking, but I don't know anything about them, unfortunately.

Um, yeah, the hamfisted “stop questioning what the plot demands and just go along with it!!!!” even though it doesn't make sense for the characters.

Um,

> the idea that they might have to stuff both hoppers full of emergency supplies and run for it and that that would be safer than their habitat was hard to grasp.

Except, again, they are from Preservation. They don't take everything that the evil capitalist corporation says at face value.

Um, the only thing they've found that was even remotely dangerous was a graboid at the bottom of a very obvious crater that may as well have giant glowing neon signs on it says, "Don't go down here. There's animals living down here."

Like, at the very least, if you go to a place that's very obviously got craters that are very obviously maintained in some way because they're not filled in with grass like it's an ancient impact or something —

At the very least, you're going to think, "Okay, something is clearly going on here at a regular interval enough to keep this this crater not covered in grass. So maybe let's not go there.” Maybe it's a land

— Maybe there's some weird alien fantasy land whirlpool going on.

And this time it happened to be graoids, but you don't fucking know. It could be anything. So why did they go down there?

It doesn't — It genuinely doesn't make sense for any of these fucking characters, um, when you actually get established with what they're supposed to be like in the whole rest of the series, none of their actions make sense.

So now we have two paragraphs on page 94 just, just trying to beat us over the head with “stop questioning the fact that the plot is completely overshadowing anything that makes sense for the characters as they are established.”

I'll reread you these two paragraphs on this page because it's funny. Uh, it's it's very clearly like, Martha Wells breaking the fourth wall because somebody, somebody in the editing process said it — they really — somebody told her had to have told her,

“It really doesn't make sense that they haven't just left or turned off the computers that are trying to kill them.”

So on page 94 after a random page break that should have just been the end of the chapter, it would have been a natural place to end the chapter~ We get this after that page break.

> It may seem weird that Mensah was the only human to think of abandoning the habitat while we waited for the beacon to bring help, but as I said before, these weren't intrepid galactic explorers. They were people who had been doing a job and suddenly found themselves in a terrible situation. And it had been hammered into them from the pre-orientation trip to the waivers they had to sign for the company to the survey packages with all the hazard information to their onsite briefing by their SecUnit that this was an unknown potentially dangerous region on a mostly unsupervis unsu surveyed planet. They weren't supposed to leave the habitat without security precautions and we

> didn't even do overnight assessment trips. The idea that they might have to stuff both hoppers full of emergency supplies and run for it and that this would be safer than their habitat was hard to grasp

Does not — does that not sound exactly like breaking — like, that's *really* funny. Yeah, that's hilarious.

Also by “the on-site briefing by their SecUnit” instead of Murderbot saying “by me”, that's really weird.

Like, like I started reading that, I was like, no wait, are we breaking the fourth wall right now?

What's the dude who's doing this — the Jurassic Park review? He keeps Yeah. Crim Crimson Rogue. Some dude on YouTube who does book reviews named Crimson Rogue — He has one very racist comment on a video from several years ago. So, I'm hoping he fucking listened to a single person in the comments that wasn't doing the exact same thing.

But he's constantly talking about fucking like, you know, how the plot shouldn't overshadow the characters. Characters shouldn't be doing things just because it's what the plot demands when when the charact — when it doesn't make sense for the characters, because this literally just seems like somebody kept —

Multiple people commenting to Martha Wells, that “this doesn't make sense. Why haven't they just left?” And then the answer is “because the plot. Because that's not what's supposed to be happening in the plot yet.”

So then this shit got written to like break the fourth wall, and she's not subtle when she does this. Yeah, it's not subtle.

When she's caricaturerizing her critics, — Mhm.

> But when Pin-Lee and Gurathin shut down HubSystem and unpacked the satellite download that was meant for me, they grasped it pretty quick. Bharadwaj outlined it for us on

> the comm while I was getting my extra suit skin and my armor back on.

And you notice we still don't know what the fucking a suit skin is and it will never come up after this book ever again. It would take 5 seconds to clarify. Is it an actual extra layer of skin or is it just is it just wearing underclothes?

Underclothes, one word.

Extra layer of skin.

Extra layer of skin. That's four words.

That's all you got to do. Either give us four words, or one fucking word. Just define what the absolute fuck a suit skin is, because we keep getting told that's a thing that exists. There's injuries and stuff involving it.

Is it clothes or is it fake skin? The most basic shit in the world and we never get an answer, and it makes it impossible — along with all the other lack of

descriptions — to actually imagine anything that's going on here when it actually fucking matters.

> Bharadwaj outlined it for us on the comm while I was getting my extra suit skin and my armor back on. “It was meant to take control of SecUnit.

It was meant to take control of Slave with a capital fucking S because we are they are still dehumanizing Murderbot and literally treating it like a fucking object.

The the actual fucking response to, "Hey, don't call me by that name. That is private." The follow-up question is, "What would you prefer we call you instead?" Murderbot has never told a single one of these fuckers to call it SecUnit, they're just doing that, the exact same thing they were doing before they supposedly “started treating it like a person”, which is what they're supposedly doing now, despite not asking what its pronouns are and not asking what it actually wants to be called.

Also, Martha Wells is ridiculous and racist and bad at writing.

Uh,

> “It was meant to take control of *Slave* and once the instru— and the instructions were very specific.” She finished.

Why are you saying “she finished”? She's still talking. Okay, okay.

Dialogue start. It was meant to take control of slave and the instructions were very specific. End that dialogue. She finished. Period. Then she continues talking. Once Slave was under control, it would give them access to MedSystem and SecSystem.

Why is she — Why are we saying “she finished” like she's, she's not finished talking yet. She's still talking. You — she “she added, comma blah” would work, but you can't say “she finished” and then she's literally still talking in the same fucking paragraph.

> I got my helmet on and opaqued it. The relief was intense about even with finding out that the combat override module had been removed.

More jokes.

> I love you armor and I'm never leaving you again.

And then Murderbot is literally never given armor ever again in the entire fucking series, and the only reason it continues to be drawn with this fucking armor on the covers, I'll even go get System Collapse. You're free to say anything you want while I'm getting that, fucking 5 seconds.

So disgusting, this — and they made it even skinnier on this. They're like, going out of their way to make it as skinny looking as possible cuz she also hates fat people. Uh, the only reason Murderbot continues to be drawn in this armor in the books is the racism. Let me put this back.

(from offscreen) And you just go get it.

What I said —

(from offscreen) Didn't you just go to get that?

Yeah, I was just literally just showing it to show that, that was uh System Collapse, chronologically as as far as the main normal numbering system is concerned, that's supposedly book seven.

I'm not counting it as book seven. Um, yeah. The only reason Murderbot continues to be drawn with this armor, despite it literally never having access to it ever again, in the entire fucking series, is that it is plausible deniability.

Martha Wells gets to tell everybody that Murderbot is a dark-skinned person of color, um, but then — in the English covers at least, it's always drawn with this armor on, which means all of the racist fans get to whitewash it and project the Aryan fucking stereotype, the Aryan ideal onto it. “And they're not *technically* wrong, because look!!!! We never see what Murderbot looks like. We never get an actual description of it in the books. We just have Martha

Wells in multiple interviews telling people it's a dark-skinned person of color!!!”

And that is so that she gets plausible deniability and free brownie points for saying, "Oh yeah, my, my protagonist *totally* not white, totally a person of color, guys." But then always — never actually *showing* that, never *actually describing it* that way, so that she gets the points for saying this, without ever actually having to do anything that could possibly um, drive away racist fans.

And now — I'm going to keep saying it. Now she gets that plausible deniability. She gets to cash that check in by shilling for Apple, who is whitewashing the dark-skinned protagonist that she's been telling people for eight years is a dark-skinned person of color.

But now it gets whitewashed as the literal fucking Aryan ideal, and she gets to just *not say anything* about the fact that she told everyone it was a person of color with dark skin before now, “because well,,,, she never actually put that on the book covers!!! She never actually put that in the books themselves!!!

So,,,, uh,,, it's not actually whitewashing!!!!!! She's not cheering for whiteashing!!!! She's just literally profiting off of white supremacy in its most basic and blatant form…”

And not even just white supremacy, white patriarchy, because it's a literal cis white man. It's not even a white non-binary person. It's a white cis man.

But yeah, that's why Murderbot is always in the armor on the covers despite it literally never having access to armor ever again throughout the entire rest of the fucking series. Ever again.

It's, it's all to to fuel the fucking racism and give her plausible deniability where she gets to claim that Murderbot's a person of color, so, you should celebrate her book and support it by giving her your money, but, but also she gets to shill for Apple and gleefully cheer on and scream from the rooftops how happy she is that she gets to profit off of white supremacy, because her protagonist is being whitewashed.

Anyways, um

> Mensah clicked onto the comm. “Pin-Lee, what about the beacon?” “I go a ghost signal when I initiated launch.” Pin-Lee. Pin-Lee sounded even more exasperated than usual, “but with HubSystem shut down, I can't get any confirmation.” I told them over the feed that I could dispatch a drone to check on it. A good beacon launch was pretty important right now.

And you'll notice we never actually have gotten a description of what the beacon is yet. It's just a thing and we are never actually going to get any information upon what exactly it entails, until, that is, until after that's relevant to the plot, like every other fucking thing, because, because it's badly written and Martha Wells is under the impression that keeping information from the reader on purpose is somehow clever and it's — no it's just bad fucking writing.

> Uh, Mensah gave me the go-ahad and I forwarded the order to one of my drones. Our beacon,

We're doing this again.

Our beacon was a few kilos away,

As in kilometers, not kilograms. Kilometers. The few times in this book that doing the correct thing would have increased the length, a thing they're desperate to do, and then they still don't do the correct thing.

It's like, just put in kilometers. That would have given you that many extra letters with which to pad your fucking run time. The thing you're so desperate to do, you are inserting entire full blank pages.

But no, you want to do this instead just to be annoying.

Our beacon was a few kilos.

Also, as as my twin has pointed out, klick. Just call it a fucking klick. That's military slang. A thing it would make sense for a murderbot to use. Just say, "Our beacon was a few klicks away.” That's so simple and is not obnoxious like using kilo to mean kilometer is

without first establishing we're talking about kilometers.

Our beacon — this —

(from offscreen) klick is already military slang.

That's, Yeah, I just said that. I literally just said that.

> Our beacon was a few kilos (kilometers, klicks) away from our habitat site for safety. But I thought we should be have been able to hear it launch. Maybe not. I had never had to launch one before. Mensah had already got the humans organized and moving. And as soon as I had my weapons and spare drones loaded, I grabbed a couple of crates. I kept catching little fragments of conversation over the security cameras. “You have to think of it as a person,” Pin-Lee said to Gurathin.

Because this is we're further pretending that these fuckers didn't know it was a person the whole entire time because they literally come from a planet that is

probably half the population is robots who are considered people. This is fucking — this is more slavery apologism trying to convince us, the readers, that “they just had no clue it was a person” even though the entire rest of the series goes on to blow that out of the fucking water completely and utterly.

> “It is a person!” Arada insisted

Because you know we just love lying to the audience. Because they are lying to the audience right now and they're lying to Murderbot more importantly, because they didn't *have* to be lying here.

We could have shown them coming from an actual backwater planet where it's just like, 20 fucking I don't fucking know, an actual backwater planet where they have absolute like zero technology and they don't even know what what they're doing, and they've never seen robots in their fucking lives.

But we don't do that, because that would require actually for them to be poor people who are not rich — disgustingly rich academics which is what they are.

And Martha Wells also hates poor people on top of all of the other minorities she hates. She hates poor people.

So, we don't actually get a Preservation where anything these characters are fucking lying about is actually a fucking thing it's possible for them to have thought.

They could have genuinely not known that Murderbot was a person if they, if they were poor, if they were from an *actual* backwater rural planet where nothing happens and they have no contact or no news channels with any of this shit, and they just don't genuinely don't know.

But that's not what the entire rest of the series is, because Martha Wells hates poor people. So, of course, these people have to be actually rich and, and powerful and literally have a society run on slave labor from robots that they they admit are people, but we're just supposed to pretend that they're not — in that the robots are not enslaved, because they call it guardianship instead of owner.

It's all the racism.

> Rathi and Arada sprinted past me carrying medical supplies and spare power cells.

You know how I just pointed out that they were all just standing around discussing this fucking when they could have been doing something? They could have been doing this fucking right now. They could have just started packing the hoppers while they were doing all this.

Or, you know, better yet, they could have all packed the fucking hoppers before Murderbot even woke up, because again, it was at least a day to get back from the DeltFall habitat across the entire goddamn ocean to the other side of the fucking planet, and then at least several fucking hours, if not a whole another day, of Murderbot being unconscious in order for Gurathin, Volescu, and Pin-Lee to be doing all that shit.

But we never acknowledge that time gap. So the story literally just stops and starts when Murderbot is awake, because it's badly written.

> I had extended our drone perimeter as far as it could go. We didn't know what we didn't know that whoever hit DeltFall would show up at any second, but it was a strong possibility.

So why were you all wasting literally at least several hours, if not an entire day, while Murderbot was unconscious, [not] getting this shit done?

(from offscreen) Gurathin, if this is while they're —

Talk louder.

(from offscreen) While they're hacking into Murderbot's brain, that means they're also going past all whatever proprietary firewalls and shit block that kind of thing from happening.

Yeah, it's ridiculous. They just pointed out if they're going — if they are literally hacking into Murderbot's

brain to the point that they've downloaded and reviewed its whole entire personal fucking log, as long as all of the shit with its governor module, that means that they they just fucking hacked through all of the proprietary firewalls that the company would have in had in place.

So yeah, we're supposed to believe that they're capable of doing all of that, but then they also just don't do anything to actually improve the situation at all.

(from offscreen) Magical hacking there when the plot required.

Huh?

(from offscreen) Magical hacking there when the plot requires it. No other time.

Yep.

> Gurathin had come out to check the big hopper and the little hopper systems.

Have I mentioned lately how much I hate the fact that there are two hoppers? It's just needlessly over complicated for literally no reason. Just make it one fucking helicopter. They don't need to be two of them. It's obnoxious. It's, it's just unnecessary. Just get rid of the small one. Just say we have a godamn ship. It's a ship. It's a planet ship. Call it something. It's ridiculous.

Especially it's it doesn't make any sense. Why would the — why would the big hopper not be big enough for all of them to fit in it? It doesn't fucking make sense. It doesn't fucking make sense.

It's literally just there to to be fucking redundant and over complicate things completely fucking needlessly.

> Gurathin had come out to check the big hopper and the little hopper systems.

Also, we still don't know what the fucking they look like in any capacity. These things could be bright neon yellow, and we don't fucking know. They could be mini uh Millennium Falcons. We don't fucking know. They

could be shaped like giant robot dogs. We don't know. [laughing] Maybe cuz they're called hoppers, they're shaped like giant fucking kangaroos. None of these options are off the fucking table, because there is zero description of them in any fucking way whatsoever. We don't even know what color they are.

(from offscreen) They could be shaped like flying grasshoppers from A Bug's Life.

Yeah. Like this is bad writing and people are like, "Oh, well, it's just because Murderbot wouldn't care."

It's in all of her things. It's in all of her stories.

It's even in Murderbot stories that are not from Murderbot's perspective.

So shut the fuck up and stop trying to defend bad writing with in-universe justifications that don't even make sense and don't fucking apply, because it's a literal consistent problem throughout all of the author's writing, not just this shit.

> Gurathin had come out to check the big hopper and the little hopper system to make sure no one other than us had access to that had access and that HubSystem hadn't messed with their code. I kept an eye on him through one of the drones. He kept looking at me or trying not to look at me which was worse. I didn't need the distraction right now. When the next attack came, it was going to be fast. “I do think of it as a person.” Gurathin said, "An angry, heavily armed person who has no reason to trust us."

So Gurathin is the one now doing the slavery apologism of demonizing slaves by saying that slaves are all just violent evil murder machines. But it's bad when he does it, but totally fine when Murderbot and the author herself do it, because Martha Wells is racist and has no sense of irony.

[looking at bug on book] It's a freaking fruit fly.

Like literally, literally “an angry, heavily harmed person — armed person who has no reason to trust us.”

Murderbot literally goes around murdering other slaves with this exact justification. But it's only presented as a bad thing because Gurathin is being ~mean~ to Murderbot in particular, the only slave that matters as far as this fucking series is concerned.

> “Then stop being mean to it”, Rathi told him. “That might help.”

Again, we literally just affirmed in the fucking text that Gurathin is being mean. *Mean*.

Cuz this is marketed for adults. And this isn't — this is an *adult* book, this is a book marketed towards adults, this isn't young adult. This isn't middle-grade. This is for adults. It's meant to be a serious story for fucking adults.

> “They know their SecUnit successfully gave our SecUnit the combat module.” Mensah was saying over the command “and we have to assume they received enough information from HubSystem to know we removed it’

What?

> “But they don't know that we've theorized that.”

Why are we talking about this shit? Just shut up. Stop talking. The same three conversations again. Yes. Yes. We are just saying this again.

“They know their SecUnits successfully gave our SecUnit the combat module.” Mensah was saying over the command “and we have to assume they received enough information from HubSystem to know we removed it. But they don't know that we've theorized their existence.”

> When SecUnit, *Slave* — when *Slave* cut off the HubSystem’s access, we were still assuming this was sabotage from the company. They won't realize we know they're coming.”

And it's like, "Nobody gives a fuck, just get the fuck on with the goddamn plot! There is no point in saying all of this again.

> Which is why we had to keep moving. Rathi and Arada stopped to answer a question about the medical equipment power cells, and I shooed them back to the habitat for the next load.

Notice the phrasing there, shooing them like they're little children. Like the fucking Mammy trope that I just fucking said. Murderbot is also an example of the Mammy trope. Uh, I'll link a fucking video in the description for this for a video that is like literally required fucking viewing if you are going to talk about the Murderbot Diaries, or just in general, I'm going to make everybody watch it. You have to fucking watch it.

Yeah, Murderbot is literally the Mammy trope. Especially because in Network Effect, one of its slave owners explicitly, literally in the books, one of its slave owners refers to it as mom.

It's fucking ridiculous.

> The problem I was going to have is that the way murderbots fight is we throw ourselves at the

> target and try to kill the shit out of it, knowing that 90% of our bodies can be regrown or replaced in a cubicle. So, finesse is not required.

And yet somehow somehow we're just supposed to accept the fact that Murderbot has won every fight it's gotten into, except for when it got snuck snuck up on.

And also yeah “90% of our bodies can be regrown or replaced in a cubicle” because we hate disabled people in a Martha Wells universe

(from offscreen) And stakes.

And stakes! We hate disabled people and stakes. You'll notice that Murderbot has been catastrophically injured twice now, first with the graboid, then with the fucking getting attacked by the enslaved — other slaves, and then attempting to kill itself.

And all of those injuries, they're magically gone in between each fucking incident. The ma — the injuries

are magically gone. Murderbot doesn't have to continue dealing with a weak arm or anything from whatever the fuck happened in the graboid fight, still don't fucking even know which limbs were affected besides something in its abdomen in some undescribed way.

It dislocated its fucking arm, its its shoulder in them the DeltFall fight, and got shot in the hip three times. I have my little stick figure here. No, correction. Got shot in the hip four times. Got shot in the shoulder three times. Then dislocated that shoulder. Then apparently lost its whole entire hand from getting shot in the hand.

Also um got completely violently knocked unconscious the first time and then got shot in the chest to the point that it instantly almost fucking died right then and there, and all — that's all, that's all gone — and experimental brain surgery from these people literally going into Murderbot's brain and hacking into its fucking brain, the inorganic the mechanical parts of its brain, and fucking with its brain, as people who are not qualified to do this shit.

All of that has happened, and it's all, it's, it's all magically healed, because it's literally just exists to cause drama for the about two fucking pages where it lasts, and then it gets instantly healed because Martha Wells hates physically disabled people and doesn't actually want the characters to actually have to struggle.

Imagine if the injuries from that first attack by a graboid were still persistent when Murderbot went into the DeltFall habitat, and then all, it then — it then has to deal with all of that shit, barely able to move while all this is going on.

That would require actually caring about physically disabled people and just basic storytelling of, if — there have to be consequences to your character's actions, and those consequences have to fucking matter, otherwise, your audience is going to get sick of your shit and leave, which is what is happening with this series.

I literally did the fucking calculations a few weeks ago for this, for everybody that read this book, only 19%

of the people who read this book bothered to read System Collapse.

19%. That's all that's left of the audience initiated by this fucking book.

Only 19% of that audience is left — gives enough fucks left to read System Collapse, the book that's supposedly number seven, and it's so bad most people have given up and, and that was — and System Collapse was so fucking terrible and continuing to go nowhere, that that is — most people who were leaving reviews said that was the moment that the series “jumped the shark” and they will not be reading the next one.

So, I can't wait until fucking PlatformDecay comes out so I can run the numbers on that and see what the audience retention's at after.

Like, it's ridiculous because there's only so long you can string your fucking audience along with a story that clearly does not give a single fucking about anything at all!

> When we left the habitat, I wouldn't have access to the cubicle, even if we knew how to take it apart, which we didn't. It was too big to fit in the hopper and required too much power.

And you might be thinking, "Wow, so we're finally getting an actual stakes! So Murderbot's injuries will actually mean something!”

No, don't hold your fucking breath.

It doesn't have access to a company cubicle for the entire rest of the series after this book, and yet, it still continues to get magically healed every single time, because despite supposedly being made up of proprietary technology, you can drop it off in any random doctor's office and they will fix it instantaneously perfectly.

Zero trouble at all. The proprietary technology doesn't actually exist. And not in the way of “Murderbot was lied to and told that it can't get healed any other way,” No, it just doesn't exist

because it's shit writing and it doesn't actually impact anything.

Even though we keep getting told that “we're so expensive to repair”, but you can drop it off at any doctor's office! Literally any medical bay can repair Murderbot! Zero actual fucking intensive things required, even though it's supposedly got cyborg arms and legs, it's badly fucking written and it just gets worse the longer it goes on.

That's why only 19% of the audience remains for System Collapse. And now after System Collapse, I'm, I think we should run a vote. What — What number? We're gonna have to wait like two fucking years to check the ratings for PlatformDecay so that it has time to catch up to all of the other numbers.

What number do — what number of audience retention do we think will have — be remaining to rate PlatformDecay when it comes out?

I'm going to I'm going to vote right now.

(from offscreen) I say 15 or 10%.

They said 10 to 15%.

I'm going to go with 10% audience retention. if not 8%. Those are my votes. You can feel free to also vote.

This is going to be on the Internet Archive. You can leave a review just, just predicting what vote. Um we will literally have to wait until like 2028 to compare the numbers for PlatformDecay to all the other ones because I ran the numbers just last month. So, all of the books are at least 2 years old. So, we're going to have to wait until PlatformDecay is at least two years old to give it a fighting chance.

Anyways, yeah. Um, where the fucking was I? Yeah, I'm voting 10%. I'm I'm voting 8 to 10% audience remaining at all, and they're voting 10 to 15%. Feel free to fucking vote.

(from offscreen, joking) Uh, ~please put some put a number down in the comments~.

No, we're not doing that shit, you don't have to comment on YouTube. Fuck YouTube. I don't give a shit. You can do it on the Internet Archive because that doesn't have an algorithm. So, yep. Uh,

Where is it?

Oh, yeah.

> When we left the habitat, I wouldn't have access to the cubicle.

A lie.

> Even if we knew how to take it apart, which we didn't. It was too big to fit in the hopper and required too much power.

That's just a lie. Murderbot will have access to the cubicle. It's, it's literally never going to actually have to do —

— I should check what my battery is at. It just...Okay, it's at 67%. The screen just darkened noticeably. Guess it was just doing that for fun.

Murderbot is never ever ever going to have a single instance in this entire series where it's actually injured for probably more than 10 pages at a time, and every single time, it instantly gets magically healed offcreen like it never fucking happened.

Every single goddamn time.

Every single time.

Which is again conflicting with the “uh,,, murderbots are so expensive and so hard to repair and made with proprietary technology that nobody else knows how to work with”.

But no, because Martha Wells wants the trappings of anti-capitalist dystopias, but she doesn't actually want to follow through on what that fucking requires, because she hates physically disabled people, she

hates poor people, she's actually fully fine with capitalism.

She's literally right now profiting off of white supremacy gleefully.

Anyways, um blah blah blah blah blah. “We can't take the thingyamajiggy with us.” So, everybody pretend that Murderbot's in actual real danger, even though it's already gotten extremely injured twice now and completely magically healed in between each fight.

> And they might have actual combat bots rather than security bots like me.

So much more lying going on. It's just fucking — It's just fucking — And so much redundancy. It's ridiculous.

> In which case, our only chance was going to be keeping away from them until the pickup transport arrived.

Why are we saying this again? Why are we saying this again?? Why are we saying this again??!

> In which case, our only chance was going to be keeping away from them until the pickup transport arrived.

Like, didn't we literally just say that exact fucking phrase a few pages ago????? I have to find it.

Oh, wait. Instead of scrolling through this, I can just open the, the this stupidly named EPUB from the fucking Humble Bundle thing.

First, let's see what percentage we are at now. Thanks to my calculator, we're now 64% of the way through this fucking pile of garbage. Pile of garbage that can't think keep anything straight.

I guess I don't need to actually open Calibre. I can just do this.

Uh, if you get the Humble Bundle thing, um, rename all the files. The file names they give you are absolute

useless fucking garbage. I actually am going to read off what I recommend renaming them to right now because they're that garbage.

Okay. The files that you will get from the Humble Bundle — Can I click, please? Okay.

In alphabetical order, assuming your computer is sorted by to show files by alphabetical order. Okay.

Yes, this is a this is a pause the regular video.

I'll just make this also a separate one, but you're dealing with it. It's going on here for posterity.

allsystemsred_ebook

That's, that's, that's should be the first one that shows up. Rename that Murderbot 01 All Systems Red, and then you can include “by Martha Wells 2017” if you wantm but mostly importantly just put Murderbot 01 All Systems Red, so that it appears in fucking chronological order.

All right, next one is artificialcondition_ebook . Name that Murderbot 02 Artificial Condition by Martha Wells 2018 .

If you're like me and want to include the dates.

Next is cityofbones.

You notice that they're not even keeping any of these things consistent. They're not even calling them all underscore ebook.

Anyways, rename it — cityofbones, to City of Bones by Martha Wells 1995 .

Next is exitstrategy_ebook. Rename that Murderbot 04 Exit Strategy by Martha Wells 2018,

Next is fugitivetelemetry_ebook. Rename that to Murderbot 09 Fugitive Telemetry by Martha Wells 2021

Next is home_habitatrangenicheterritory, is all one fucking word.

Rename that Murderbot 08...I guess I have to say this stupid ass name out loud.

Murderbot 08 Home Habitat Range Niche Territory by Martha Wells 2021

Next is networkeffect . Are you picking up on the thing yet?

Name that Murderbot 07 Network Effect by Martha Wells 2020 .

Next is rapportfriendshipsolidaritycommunionempathy. Is all one word. Crushed together like somebody is saying it really fucking fast.

Name that Murderbot 12 Rapport Friendship Solidarity Communion Empathy by Martha Wells 2025

Next is rogueprotocol_ebook . Name that Murderbot 03 Rogue Protocol by Martha Wells 2018

Next is just systemcollapse. There's no underscore ebook because they are not even consistent with the fucking file names for an official fucking thing.

Name that Murderbot 10 System Collapse by Martha Wells 2023

Then we have thebookofile-rien , which I think somebody needs to be fired for. That is a fucking lie. That's a fucking lie.

Rename thebookofile-rien into The Element of Fire and The Death of the Necromancer by Martha Wells 1993 and 1998.

Because calling it ~The Book of Ile-Rien implies that's a compilation of every single book set in the Ile-Rien thing, and it's not. That's two books.

There are at least three others plus a whole collection of short stories that's not included in the book of the ill ~Book of Ile-Rien~. That's a fucking lie. Like that is a blatant fucking lie and there's no reason for it.

Uh next one. We're almost done.

Uh another lie. Well, no, this one is true because it's just a lie in spirit.

Theemilieadventures.

Calling it adventures is going too far.

Rename that to Emilie and the Hollow World & Emilie and the Sky World by Martha Wells 2013 and 2014

Then we have wheeloftheinfinite. Rename that to Wheel of the Infinite by Martha Wells 2000.

And then it's just witchking , which is another lie. It's just blatant fucking false advertising, lying, stringing along the audience, DLC culture in book form.

Rename that The Rising World 01 Witch King by Martha Wells 2023.

Because that was marketed and sold as and promised to people to be a standalone novel. A fully standalone novel is what that was everybody was told that was.

AKA, that we — that was sold as a complete sto — a complete story, and now there's a sequel coming out because it ended without any actual conclusion, and now people on GoodReads who have gotten the advanced reader copies are saying that it's leading into a, the sequel, it's leading into a third fucking book.

So, it's literally lying and scamming the fucking audience, convincing people to pay almost $30 for a thing they're promised is a complete standalone novel, a whole self-contained story that is accomplished and complete from start to finish without anything missing, only to reveal like, almost immediately, “actually, there's a sequel coming out! We fucking lied to you about it being standalone!”

And now the people who are getting to read that sequel early before it's actually published are telling

everyone, "Yeah, now this is leading into a third book."

So the thing we were pub — promised was a standalone, is at this fucking point going to be three goddamn books, if not more.

So, they are literally just fucking lying to everybody to convince you to shell out $30 for what is the first book in a series, that has no conclusion, and is shittily written from start to finish, and doesn't make any sense and is literally just — it's ridiculous.

Why was I even trying to open up the EPUB? Did you remember what I wanted to open this for to look for something?

(from offscreen) I don't remember.

Let's see what was on the page before I got distracted. Anyways, we're continuing. There's an image for people to search through the thingies for um….

Oh, for looking for the sentence uh “keeping away from them until the pickup transport arrives”. So, let's do control F.

Yeah. Um, Overse just said a few pages ago that means “this means we need to stay alive long enough for the transport to get here.” The — this —

Okay. And then next is Murderbot saying this: “We need to stay alive until the pickup transport arrived.”

Let me just search pickup, because it's giving me four results and it's like, why are the — Murderbot is literally just repeating the exact shit in the conversation they all just stood around having while not doing anything, and we're just saying it again for no other purpose except to make this story seem longer than it actually is without anything actually fucking happening.

Like... you would think from how much summarizing is suddenly going on that this was the start of a second book that the first one had just ended, or as

though uh we've been off the air a TV show that's been off the air for 5 years.

So we're like, "Hey, we're going to give you a little bit of a recap just just so you're on the same fucking page." Like what is going on here? Why are we why are we just repeating all the things we literally just established?

Okay. Um, “and they might have actual combat bots” of things that don't actually matter in any fucking way “rather than security bots like me.” In which case, and again, you notice Murderbot referring to itself as a bot, meaning a mechanical robot in this setting. And then the whole rest of the series wants to claim that it's actually not a bot, even though it literally referred to itself as one in this book multiple times.

Um, and now in the newest things, Martha Wells is seemingly just drifting away from calling any any person in here a bot and is just calling them MIs or ~machine intelligences~ for some fucking reason, even though it's completely breaking the terminology, the useless terminology that causes more problems

than it solves, but you at least need to be fucking consistent about it.

And she's just seeming to be just going, "Oh, I, I'll just call them MIs now without ever actually explaining to anybody what that means."

So that there's genuinely tons of people who are, from just reading Rapport alone, where this this shit gets mentioned, they're assuming, “oh, that means uh…military...military? Something military intelligences? Is that what it means?”

Because she's using a fucking acronym that she hasn't properly spelled out yet, because she wants to seem clever and is trying to say something about generative AI without actually saying a single thing.

(from offscreen) Would you like to know something very funny about Murderbot

because I have to get a drink. So just talk louder here.

(from offscreen) Something very funny about Murderbot's flanderization that it's so much easier to count now with the Humble Bundle ebooks and using the search function on the Kindle. Uh, a lot of the reviews and a lot of the bad reviews for the later Murderbot books uh make a lot of commentary about we're suddenly getting F-bombs dropped left, right, and center.

Yep.

(from offscreen) What like just out of nowhere they just suddenly upwardly started, and then they just keep happening. Uh being able to search the e-pubs now, it's hilarious, guys.

Would you like—here's the, here's the, so they can hear you for sure or at least come over here. But all right, fine. Then talk louder just in general.

(from offscreen) They can hear me in the video. Okay. Uh having searched the epubs, uh the F-bomb gets dropped three times total in the first book, All Systems Read.

(from offscreen) Uh, the F-Bomb is dropped nine times in artificial condition.

(from offscreen) 12 times in Rogue Protocol,

(from offscreen) 24 times in Exit Strategy,

(from offscreen) 38 times in fugitive telemetry,

(from offscreen) 60 times in Network Effect,

(from offscreen) and 94 instances of the F-Bomb in System Collapse alone. 94 times. Just read off those numbers in order.

[incredulously] What?

(from offscreen) It goes from 3, 9, 12, 24, 38, 60, 94. This is like that meme of the Kaiju thing.

That's like an actual exponential fucking thing.

(from offscreen) I don't know. I got to look up the meme.

If Martha Wells weren't a shit writer, I, I would think maybe she's trying to tell us something with math.

(from offscreen) Doing math research. I'm eating some cheese.

So, it literally goes three, what is it? 3, 6, 9, 12?

(from offscreen) 3 9 12 24 38 60 94.

Jesus Christ.

(from offscreen) In the beginning, the F-Bombs were spaced apart. Uh....

Three in 10,000 words.

(from offscreen) Is that what it is?

Yeah, because there's around 30,000 words in All Systems Red. I don't know how many words are in the rest of them. Well, just say that.

(from offscreen) But for for the meme purposes, in the beginning, the kaiju attacks were spaced or the F-

Bombs were spaced apart by one in every 10,000 words. Uh, then every 9,000, then every 6,000, then every 3,000, then every 1,000, blah blah blah blah blah.

(from offscreen) The actual meme of it is in the beginning the kaiju attacks were spaced apart by 24 weeks, then 12, then six, then every two weeks. The last one in Sydney was a week. In 4 days, we could be seeing a kaiju every 8 hours until they are coming every four minutes. Marshall, we should witness a double event within seven days, says Owen Harper. Who is it? I don't character's name.

Yeah, I hated Pacific Rim. And that's not helping at all.

Like, you have to give me an explanation for how this ecosystem is supposed to be working. They're not magical things as far as I know. Where are they spawning in from? Another universe.

(from offscreen) Some of these have like half a dozen F-Bombs on the exact same page. Sometimes like five

of them in the same sentence. It's really fucking funny.

Read one.

(from offscreen) Uh, let me find the most hilarious one.

And this happened in the fantasy series, too, even though they're on a completely different planet where they're not speaking English, but all of a sudden, was it just in the last two books? All of a sudden, they all start just like using the F-Bomb, just saying “fuck” for no reason. And it's like, but that's not even a word you should have, you should know. And it just comes out of fucking nowhere. And I think the answer is that was when she was starting to write the Murderbot diaries.

Yeah. It's just the fact there's 12 chapters in System Collapse and there's almost a hundred uses of the F-Bomb whereas the first few novels had uh the first three novels had uh nine had 24 total spread across three books, and then System Collapse has almost a

hundred in just that single tiny ass quote unquote novel.

Mhm.

(from offscreen) And it's just like, yeah, I I can see why everybody's talking about Murderbot just getting flanderized and her literally just relying on dropping the F-Bombs to sound relatable instead of actually doing something with the prose.

System Collapse is barely fucking bigger than this.

Okay, we can continue now after that side quest side quest side quest of math. Um,

> We had everything almost loaded when Pin-Lee said on the com, “I found it. They had an access code buried in HubSystem. It wasn't sending them our audio or visual data or allowing them to see our feed, but it was receiving commands periodically.”

And it's like, again, you're going to have to give me a really good fucking explanation for why they weren't taking advantage of all of these opportunities to do this shit.

It could have been a thing that Murderbot hacking HubSystem at the start accidentally prevented them from doing these things, without Murderbot being aware of it at all. That could have just been a happy accident, but there's too many fucking inconsistencies and gaps in just basic logic for the so-called antagonists.

> “That's how it removed information from our info and map package. How it sent the commands to the little hopper's autopilot to fail.”

(to offscreen) Yeah, I have noticed now that you said that that she does keep not using the word “and”, just puts a comma there instead.

They pointed out earlier that Martha Wells really doesn't seem to like the word “and”. So we say “that's

how it removed information from our info and map package, how it sent the commands to the little hopper's autopilot to fail” instead of just saying uh “that's how it removed information from our info and map package and how it sent the command to the little” blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah.

> Gurathin added, "Both the hoppers are clear now."

Wow, that fan really does all the work. I turned it off in case it was loud, but now it's hot. So, that fan's good.

> Gurathin added, "Both the hoppers are clear now, and I've initiated the pre-flight checks." Mensah was saying something, but I had just gotten an alert from SecSystem. A drone was sending me an emergency signal. A second later, I got the drone's visual of the field where a beacon was installed. The tripod launching column was on its side, pieces of the capsule

> scattered around. I pushed it out into the general feed.

Also, again, again, I have to point out, these characters are literally not doing anything when Murderbot is unconscious besides rooting around in its brain.

Why didn't a single one of these fucking idiots just go out and fly out and turn check on the beacon while Murderbot was unconscious?

Why? Why didn't anybody — Okay, another question.

At the second they stopped being able to contact the other fucking survey team, and think there's something horribly wrong with them, why didn't they send an emergency signal right then and there?

Because that doesn't fucking make any sense.

They think there is some kind of natural fucking disaster and that everybody over there might be dead.

Why didn't they send the emergency fucking signal?

Because even if — even if everybody over there was alive but seriously injured, none of these people are actual fucking doctors.

Uh, Overse is supposedly a field trained as a field nurse. Overse is a nurse. Overse a nurse, right? Overse is supposedly a, a trained field paramedic thing. But like, we don't we don't get any details on how detailed that training is or what she can and cannot do.

Even if every even if they got over there and everybody was alive but seriously injured, they wouldn't be able to do jack shit to help besides hand out band-aids.

Why didn't they just send an emergency fucking thing as soon as they stopped being able to contact the other people and assumed they were all — they would — they were literally all assuming on their way over there that there was some natural disaster and probably everybody was dead.

Yeah, that, that why didn't they set off the other team's beacon?

Both of them — the other people, the other people's thing, I — they were saying something about it. I already forgot what it is because we're not supposed to care. Um, yeah. It's a fucking stupid ass rocket.

Like, you're gonna need to explain to me why they didn't just set off their fucking thing before going over there to check. Aka, call 911, aka setting off the beacon. And then you do call 911, and while you're calling 911, you do first aid.

Again, wait until after you've already established that, then everybody's dead. Like, it doesn't make any sense.

Literally the second you start actually fucking thinking about the goddamn plot and what these — and the — and we are supposed to believe that these characters are good people and are good competent people who aren't going to do just ridiculous things for the sake of doing ridiculous things.

They're supposed to be fucking intelligent enough to know “you should call 911 if you think a whole bunch of people have just gotten killed in a natural disaster. You should call 911 if somebody might be dead.”

But they don't they didn't do that, and they still haven't done that, and it's been several days because it took at least a day to fly over there.

Oh, you can just open the EPUB and just skim through it and see if it says how long it would take them to fly over the stupid ocean to get to DeltFall because I forget. We probably didn't get any actual concrete length of time, but it would it would have had to have been at least a day. Maybe search for “I should go too” or something like that.

(from offscreen) Do they actually use the word ocean?

I think so. Or sea. It's one of those two.

Um, I pushed it. Uh, yeah.

A second later, I got the drone's visual field of

Their stupid ass beacon in pieces because — they've — this is the first time any of them have bothered to check on it, supposedly.

Uh, okay. I just searched for beacon in the EPUB. Okay. And Rathi said,

> "The thing that worries me is that their emergency beacon didn't launch. If the habitat was breached or if there was a medical emergency they couldn't handle, their HubSystem should have triggered the beacon automatically.”

But then they still don't call 911 themselves by launching their own beacon.

It's not like —

Okay, A) it's not like they would have to pay an exorbitant amount of money to do the beacon. And B), they're disgustingly rich, and C), they're not supposed to care about money.

They should be prioritizing people's safety over the money, even if it did cost money, which it doesn't.

It doesn't cost anything for them to set off their fucking beacon to call 911 because “hey um, we've, we've been talking to these other people on their habitat and they've stopped responding and we think there's something horrible happened.”

That's Yeah. And immediately followed by that conversation, they also then say uh

> Pin-Lee was calling up specs for the beacons. “Aren't the emergency beacons designed to trigger even if the rest of the comm equipment is destroyed?”

And Murderbot says they're supposed to, but equipment failures aren't unknown. And then they still don't go out and trigger their own beacon as a safety precaution.

Again, again, this is “things have to happen because that's the plot that Martha Wells wants to write,

whether any of it makes sense in any fucking way for the characters to go along with” to the point that she had to break the fucking fourth wall over here on page 94 and just tell us, "Stop complaining that it doesn't make sense. It's totally, it totally makes sense!" Even though it doesn't.

> I pushed it the video of

The fact that their stupid phone to call 911 with, to phone home with, is broken.

> I pushed it out into the general feed and the humans went quiet. In a little voice, Rathi said, "Shit.” "Keep moving," Mensah said over the calm, her voice harsh. With HubSystem down, we didn't have any scanners up, but I had widened the perimeter as far as it would go.

A thing we already said. Why? Why are we just repeating ourselves? We are literally just, like —

(from offscreen) Got to pat out that word count.

This seems like Martha Wells like, wrote this whole section, [pointing at first half of the book] section of the book several months before writing this [pointing at second half], and is just like, repeating herself because she didn't bother to re — even reread what she already wrote here. Why do we keep repeating everything?? We've literally established — we don't — It's just ridiculous.

Like search “I widen the perimeter”. Just search “as far as it would go”

Because that's referring to the perimeter. And I know they just fucking said that fucking like just a few pages ago, if not the immediate page before this.

This is getting ridiculous.

Yeah. Yeah. Literally. No. Wait. Okay. Now that's for the — about the beacon. Stupid shit.

Are you searching for that?

(from offscreen) What?

Uh, search the All Systems Red EPUB for “as far as it would go”. See how many times it shows up? Yeah, because I'm on page 98 and they're just again repeating the thing that we just fucking established a few pages ago as though this is the first time it's being said. Um,

No. It just appears as far as that that's probably also just going to come up with as far as I knew. All right, I'll just —

Where my book go?

Yeah, literally. Um, this doesn't tell me. I guess we could do math. The EPUB doesn't tell me page numbers obviously because it's digital, but it's telling me we first said “I had extended our drone perimeter as far as it would — as far as it could go” at 61%.

And then at 62%, which I think is just one page later, I know what general paragraph shape to look for now.

Okay, that's one that's on the same page as “you have to think of it as a person’ in parenthesis. So, okay.

So yeah, literally page 96, Murderbot states, "I had extended our drone perimeter as far as it could go."

And then again on page 98, it's uh where'd it go? Hold on. Uh where'd it go? Uh

> With HubSystem down, we didn't have any scanners up, but I had widened the perimeter as far as it would go.

We already said that literally two pages ago and we are just repeating so many fucking things as though we didn't all sit — watch them standing around in that fucking room doing nothing but saying this shit and accomplishing nothing else, and now they're just repeating it all again. Like oh my god this is ridiculous.

(from offscreen) Tor claims to have edited these things.

Yeah, Tor claims to have edited this. Lee Harris in particular, edited by Lee Harris, who who can't even fix a typo as blatant as a missing space. Go to the

Rapport, and see if those fucking typos are still there. I forgot to keep counting the days that have passed.

Still there. Yeah, the fucking typos. the blatant typos in Rapport, a thing that's supposedly professionally edited and published, that's up on their fucking website for everybody to read, that still has all of the blatant fucking typos that you would find in a fucking fanfiction that somebody posts at 3:00 a.m. because they're like, "I'm not I'm not reading it again. I'm not editing it again. It's done. at 3:00 a.m. Good night at 3:00 a.m.”

It's got the typo of a missing space, dialogue in the wrong — completely wrong format, and a section where, again you're going to hear me say this dozens of times if you're watching all my videos, because I'm never going to stop complaining about it, because it's literally just showing the actual quality that this fucking publisher is pushing out and pretending is professional and is is worthy of exorbitant amounts of money.

There's literally a spot where somebody, instead of pushing enter to start a new paragraph, they somehow managed to push shift enter and, and, it's just left in there and it's still in there.

What?

That was published July 10th or June 10th. I already closed the tab. I think that was published on July 10th. It might be June 10th. I think it's funny they don't include Rapport in that Humble Bundle pack. Uh huh. Even though you got to pay for that ebook. Yep. So, people buy it thinking it's a new installment because that's what it's listed as.

Yep.

Um, blah blah blah blah.

> With HubSystem down, we didn't have any scanners up, but I had widened the perimeter as far as it would go,

As though that's new information.

> And SecSystem had just lost contact with one of the drones to the far south. I tossed the last crate into the cargo hold, gave the drones their orders, and yelled over the comm, "They're coming. We need to get in the air now.” It was unexpect unexpectedly stressful pacing back and forth in front of the hoppers waiting for my humans

Because we have now graduated to referring to the slave owners as “Murderbot’s humans” as though it's a cute little ~Murderbot's possessive of its slave owners, Murderbot cares so much about its slave owners that it's calling them “my humans” because Murderbot’s slave owners are the best slave owners.~

And Martha Wells wants us to think that slave owners are awesome and good and deserve to be protected. Murderbot is so stressed out hoping its slave owners will stay safe.

> Volescu came out with Bharadwaj, helping her over the sandy ground.

Again, basic questions I have to ask here. If, if Bharadwaj is still struggling to walk, why didn't you just have her sit in the fucking hopper waiting? This is ridiculous. This is fucking ridiculous.

> Then Overse and Arada bags slung over their shoulders, yelling at Rathi behind them to keep up

Because we have to keep yelling at Rathi because Rathi is a brown man, so he is the designated fucking comic relief.

> Gurathin was already in the big hopper and Mensah and Pen Pin-Lee came last. They split up. Pin-Lee, Volescu, and Bharadwaj headed for the little hopper and the rest to the big one

for no fucking reason. It's not even plot relevant, like, the little hopper — I'm sorry for if you're really not looking for spoilers, if this is your chosen way to read this book, or experience this book cuz I'm reading it. You're not. You're listening.

Um, sorry if you didn't want spoilers, but it's — the little hopper —

Spoiler alert, it's not going to blow up or anything.

So there's literally no purpose for them being in two different helicopters. Nothing is ever going to go on with the little fucking hopper in any way that that that justifies it existing. It's not like it's going to blow up and they all die. That doesn't happen. It's just there for no fucking reason. It's ridiculous. It's bad writing.

> I made sure Bharadwaj didn't have trouble with the ramp. We had a problem at the hatch of the big —

“I made sure Bharadwaj didn't have trouble with the ramp”, but Volescu was already helping her! But we just pretend like that didn't just get stated right there.

Uh,

> We had a problem at the hatch of the big hopper where Mensah wanted to get in last and

> I wanted to get in last. As a compromise, I grabbed her around the waist and swung us both up into the hatch as the ramp pulled in after us. I set her on her feet and she said, "Thank you, SecUnit." While the others stared.

As though that's a crazy thing to happen because again, it's supposed to be funny. “Oh, look. They both want to protect the other!”

We're talking about a slave and its owners, the people who have fucking enslaved it and have literally spent more than half of this fucking book treating it like a slave, exactly like the slave they went out of their way to rent out.

> The helmet made it a little easier, but I was going to miss the comfortable buffer of my security cameras. I stayed on my feet, holding on to the overhead rail as the others got strapped in, and Mensah went up to the pilot seat. The little hopper took off first, and she gave it time to get clear before we lifted off.

You know, in a story that's competently written, there would be a reason for there being two helicopters, and it would be that one of them gets blown up. But not here, because this is shittily written.

> We were operating on an assumption that since they, whoever they were, didn't know that we knew they were here, they would only send one ship. They would be expecting to catch us in the habitat and would probably come in prepared to destroy the hoppers to keep us there and then start on the people. So, now that we knew they were coming from the south, we were free to pick a direction. The little hopper curved away to the west and we followed. I just hoped their hopper didn't have a long range on its scanners, a longer range on its scanners than ours did.

And again, again, I have to point out there's no reason for this, there going to be two fucking helicopters —

We're now on page 100. So, let's see what percentage that is. Just for the hell of it at this point. We're now 67% of the way through this fucking story.

> I could see most of my drones on the hopper's feed. A bright dot forming on the three dimensions of the map. Group one was doing what I'd told them to do.

What do you mean group one? And we still don't know how many drones Murderbot has left, because that would require just basic setting and basic consistency. Uh,

> Group one was doing what I'd told them, gathering at a rendezvous point near the habitat. I had a calculation going estimating the bogey's time of arrival.

And we're just throwing the word bogey in there just to make it seem like it's something that it's not.

> Right before we passed out of range, I told the drones to head northeast. Within moments,

> they dropped out of my range. They would follow their last instruction until they used up their power cells. I was hoping the other survey team would pick them up and follow. As soon as they had a visual on our habitat, they'd see the hoppers were gone and know we'd run away. They might stop to search the habitat, but they also might start looking for our escape route. It was impossible to guess which. But as we flew, curving away to the distant mountains, nothing followed us.

So, we're supposed to somehow believe that little tiny drones are going to resemble, on a scanner, in any way a giant — two giant fucking helicopters filled with people somehow. Tiny itty bitty little drones because the drones are like what was it? I think they said a measurement. Let me just search drone...

Yeah, these drones, “they were the small kind, barely a centimeter across. No weapons, just cameras.”

So, somehow a group of drones, which has to be less than six because one of them, one of them got blown

up. Um, at least two that were over in the other fucking habitat, one of them got shot and another one got shot.

So Murderbot cannot have more than four drones left. But somehow things less than a centimeter — [holding up book to show the side] This is less than a centimeter. These drones are less than this across. Somehow, these tiny things flying through the air, smaller than many fucking insects, are somehow going to be picked up on the other people's scanners and they'll think it's a ship flying away.

That's the end of chapter 5. So, now we will be on chapter six, but that can be in the next video.

This is just so absurd.